

On the morning of April 19, 1911, a single female teal was found in the pond, none of the other fowl having yet been released from winter quarters. This teal was perfectly at home and absolutely tame. She allowed close approach, and when actually flushed made the same characteristic flight to the lake, keeping only a few yards off the ground. In a short time she returned. At the present date, May 17, she is still with us.

All that can be said is that this bird is a female green-winged teal, further identification being impossible as the plumage of the females of the American and European species is similar. I believe however that this returned bird is one of those that hatched in our pond, for the following reasons.

First, its actions are exactly similar to the birds of the previous summer, and very different from those which a strange teal would exhibit.

Second, it returned to a spot that no wild water-fowl have ever used.

Third, it shows no disposition to migrate north.

Fourth, the occurrence of Green-winged Teal in this locality in the spring is so rare that I have never met with one.

It seems also far more likely that our bird migrated to at least a much warmer latitude, for it could not possibly have wintered here, especially during such a severe winter as that of 1910-11. It returned nearly four weeks after the ice was out of the ponds and rivers.

Such cases, granted we are not mistaken, and also those where birds have successfully returned to their nests, when transported far beyond their natural range (see Watson, Carnegie Institute Publication No. 103, p. 227) force one to assume a directive sense in birds far beyond anything at present conceivable.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Records of *Butorides brunnescens* in Cuba.—I beg to report the capture on January 19, 1911, of a specimen of *Ardea brunnescens* Gundl., in a small lagoon on the San Carlos Sugar Plantation at Guantanamo, Cuba. The specimen is an adult female in fine plumage and was the only heron about the lagoon at the time.

I believe this is the first record for eastern Cuba. Dr. Gundlach in his work on Cuban birds states having taken it once in western Cuba on the Siguagua Creek between Moron and Jucaro, when he found a family of them, but mentions no date. He also says that he heard of another specimen being taken near Havana which was sold to a taxidermist of that city. I am also informed that Prof. Bangs records having taken two specimens in the Isle of Pines, so mine is the fifth Cuban record for the species.— CHARLES T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

"Nuptial Plumes" of the American Bittern.—The writer read with peculiar interest the account by Mr. Brewster¹ of the "nuptial plumes" worn by certain bitterns, as he had himself witnessed the display

¹ Auk, XXVIII, 1911, pp. 90-100.

described. On May 18, 1907, while with a class of students in bird study from the University of Chicago, an American Bittern was observed not seventy-five yards distant, in a marsh at Millers, Indiana. The white nuptial plumes were displayed in most conspicuous fashion so that the attention of all members of the party was directed to them at once.—R. M. STRONG, *University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.*

The Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) in Ohio.—The Carnegie Museum has recently acquired a fine specimen of the Sandhill Crane, shot on April 11, 1911, in the southwest corner of Huron County, near Plymouth, Ohio, by Mr. F. B. Lofland. It appears that Mr. Lofland first saw the bird a week or ten days previously and wounded it at that time, but did not succeed in capturing it. Upon the occasion of his next visit he again found the bird, which was unable to fly, and showed fight upon being approached, so that he was obliged to shoot it. The occurrence of this species in Ohio seems worthy of record, as it is certainly one of the rarest birds of the State, although Mr. Lofland thinks that he has seen other individuals at this same locality—an extensive swamp.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

A Woodcock in New York City.—On March 10, Mr. Louis H. Schortmeier brought into the office of the National Association of Audubon Societies a Woodcock, *Philohela minor*, which he had picked up in Maiden Lane, New York City, that morning (March 25, 1911). The bird appeared to be in good condition, save that it was probably weak from hunger. It was sent to the New York Zoological Park. Mr. Crandall informs me that the bird refused all food and was kept alive for about a week by stuffing it with worms and maggots, when it died. This has been the previous experience at the Park with these birds and is in line with one experience that I had. Although Mr. Crandall even secured earth worms for this bird, and buried them in soft earth, the bird refused to eat voluntarily.—B. S. BOWDISH, *Demarest, N. J.*

A Golden Plover in Massachusetts in April.—On April 8, 1911, while at Plum Island, Mass., with Dr. J. B. Brainerd, Barron Brainerd, and Richard M. Marble, I shot a Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*). The bird proved to be a male with a single black feather near the center of his breast. He is now in my collection.

The bird had not been seen by members of the Plum Island life-saving station near which he was shot, neither were there any traces of old wounds. His body was entirely free from fat. Whether he was a straggling migrant or a bird which had been forced to winter is a question open to discussion.—JAMES L. PETERS, *Harvard, Mass.*

The Troupial at Santa Barbara, Cal.¹—Yesterday (April 30, 1911)

¹ Extracts from two letters written to the Editor, with permission to publish, dated respectively May 1 and May 4, 1911.—ED.